



WHITE HOUSE
MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

Honor the Past—Imagine the Future

November 12, 1999

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President Emeritus, Head of Laboratory, and Raymond & Beverly Sackler Foundation Scholar
Rockefeller University
1230 York Ave. #400
New York, NY 10021-6341

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I am writing to ask you, a recipient of a President's National Medal of Science, to help us decide the contents of a National Time Capsule to represent America at the end of the 20th century.

From December 31, 1999 to January 2, 2000, the President, Mrs. Clinton and Congressional leaders will host America's Millennium, a celebration for the nation in Washington, DC, that will reflect our theme: *Honor the past -- imagine the future*. As part of the Opening Ceremony on the National Mall, Mrs. Clinton will present the time capsule - a message from our time to the future - that captures our unique heritage, achievements and hopes for the future.

You have been recognized for your contributions to the nation. Now I would like to ask you for another contribution: if you could choose just one item or idea to represent America at the end of the 20th century, and to be preserved for the future, what would it be? Or, if you have a specific prediction – or hope – for the future, what would you wish?

You may want to suggest an artifact, an historical event or discovery. Perhaps you want to suggest an object associated with your own achievement, an event that helped define your field, or a hope you have for the future of your area of expertise. Please send us your suggestion (on one page) by November 30, so that your idea may guide our thinking. We are not expecting to seal this capsule on New Year's Eve, but rather to exhibit it and even add to its contents during the year 2000.

Thank you for considering this request. Your ideas will help ensure that the nation's millennium celebration reflects the thoughts of America's most creative and innovative leaders. I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

Ellen McCulloch-Lovell
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Advisor to the First Lady on the Millennium

Enclosure

and photo's of ^{whole} earth from space.

photo's of the US troops
liberating prisoners in

Buchenwald. Perhaps
inevitably also the mushroom
cloud over Hiroshima - a reality
we can't forget.